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COMOR MAPPING, CHARTING, AND GEODESY WORKING GROUP

Minutes of Meeting Held in Room 5B2830
Central Intelligence Agency, Langley
1000-1300, 18 November 1966

PRESIDING

[redacted] Chairman

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MEMBERS PRESENT

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[redacted] DIA	Mr. G. W. Wolf, ONI
Deputy Chairman	Mr. D. L. Holben, AFNIN
[redacted] DIA	[redacted] CIA
Mr. K. W. Rinehart, OACSI	

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CONSULTANTS PRESENT

[redacted] CIA	[redacted] DIA	25X1A
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Purpose of Meeting 25X1A

1. The purpose of the meeting was to review the situation with respect to the serious deficit in the KH-4 data bank, with the objective of resolving what action should be taken to support the KH-4 collection program over the next six- or seven-month period, and specifically, whether there was sufficient urgency or justification to support a KH-4 mission for December 1966.

MC&G Needs for KH-4 Missions

2. The Chairman outlined the background and current situation, identifying the fact that recent USIB actions had restated requirements in terms of covering 80 per cent of stated over-all search objectives during the given time period, and that the need was an over-all reduction

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ARMY, DIA and NRO review(s) completed.

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of requirements to be fulfilled by the NRO. Recent search and surveillance missions have been quite successful, in that 70 per cent of the six-month requirements was met in two missions. While the requirements had decreased, the NRO had increased its capability through increasing the programming options from 9 to 72. [redacted]

[redacted] indicated that the general trend in meeting search and surveillance requirements was such that even though USIB had approved 10 search-surveillance missions per year, this number would be significantly reduced. For example, while there was no KH-4 mission in October, it is already concluded from the reported coverage of the November mission that no KH-4 mission will be required in December for search and surveillance purposes. It was reported that Mission 1037 was operating very well, and that approximately 40 per cent of the first part was being devoted to mapping, charting, and geodesy objectives, and that something over 500,000 square miles could be expected to bring the coverage to over 12 million square miles outside the Soviet bloc and Communist China.

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3. The Working Group discussed a projection of the KH-4 collection program outside the Soviet bloc and Communist China, based only on obtaining the photography during the missions that were accomplished for search-surveillance purposes. It was noted that this extended the program out four to five years. It was further recognized that we should not expect to cover 100 per cent of all the areas in the cloudy regions. It was concluded that if the program were to be substantially completed in line with the three year objective established by USIB in March of 1965, it would be necessary to carry out substantially more missions than are presently needed for search and surveillance.

4. [redacted] gave a generalized run-through of a briefing on the uses of KH-4 data being made by the MC&G community in areas outside the Soviet bloc and Communist China, together with an updated justification for the data bank. This briefing was being prepared for presentation to key CIA personnel, as requested by [redacted] resulting from discussion in the COMOR on 13 August. Constructive criticisms were offered for improvements in the briefing and to accomplish particular objectives of concern.

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5. Discussion recognized that as the NRO continued the KH-4 missions covering areas outside the Soviet bloc and Communist China, the

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net square miles obtained per mission would be continually decreasing. The fact that obtaining 90-100 per cent cloud-free photographs of MC&G requirement areas by NRO could not make profitable use of more than 50 to 60 per cent of the film from any one mission was a significant factor. Discussion evolved that while the KH-4 data is of vital importance to MC&G, it was not certain that additional missions, justified only for MC&G purposes, could be supported in view of the coverage already on hand, and the extension of the three-year objective to the four- to five-year time period. [Redacted] brought out that within the next month or two, we should obtain more experience with respect to the NRO photographing both search-surveillance and MC&G targets with weather as the principal factor. The Working Group concluded that pending further experience in fulfilling the MC&G requirement, the coverage requirement for FY67 outside the Soviet bloc and Communist China should be held at 7 million square miles. Since the MC&G requirement is basically one of having an adequate data band and needing the data for current production purposes, the question of whether a KH-4 mission should be operated in December or January is basically more of a decision related to optimum weather conditions and/or search surveillance requirements. Accordingly, the MC&G Working Group could not come up with significant justification that would support operating a KH-4 mission in December as compared to January.

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Other Business

6. Color Photography. [Redacted] asked that there be a careful evaluation made of the potential of color photography obtained from satellite systems. There has been a comprehensive report prepared in the intelligence production community which should be studied. An evaluation of color photography for MC&G purposes is needed in the next month or two.

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7. Slivers--KH-4 Coverage. [Redacted] referred to long, narrow slivers in KH-4 coverage requirements, and asked that this situation be studied in view of total coverage to see if something could be done to make less demands on the NRO. [Redacted] mentioned that action was under way in analyzing coverage in the cloudy regions, and that some comments could be made in a few weeks.

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10. Technical Data Concerning New Search. Mr. Rinehart made the point that technical characteristics of acquisition systems that are being developed by the NRO are needed in the MC&G community as a guide to planning for technical characteristics of MC&G utilization equipment. It was agreed that such data should be made available to the MC&G community as soon as specific technical parameters were established.

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Chairman
COMOR MC&G Working Group

Copy 1 DIA TCO [redacted]
2, 3 DIA TCO [redacted]
4, 5 Army TCO (Mr. Matthews)
6, 7 Navy TCO (Mr. Wolf)
8, 9 Air Force TCO (Mr. Eldridge)

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10, 11 CIA Member ([redacted])
12, 13 NRO [redacted] 17, 18
14, 15 NPIC [redacted] 15
16 State TCO (Mr. Moyer) 15
17 NSA TCO [redacted] 16
18 CIA COMOR Member 19 19
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